

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ORM-02

DHA-02 IO-13 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /079 W

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R 031430Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 158

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSIAW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CZ

SUBJECT: GERMAN EMIGRATION FROM CSSR

1. AT NATO AMBASSADORS LUNCH APRIL 29 GERMAN AMB RITZEL
SPOKE ABOUT CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING GERMAN EMIGRATION
FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AS ADDRESSES AWARE, THIS IS CONFIDERABLY

LESS IMPORTANT AN ISSUE HERE THAN CZECHOSLOVAKIA RELATIONS,
BUT IT STILL HAS SIGNIFICANCE IN GERMAN POLITICS, SO IS TREATED
WITH GREAT CAUTION.

2. ACCORDING TO RITZEL, IN 1969 IT WAS BELIEVED THAT
THERE WERE 25,000 GERMANS WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS
GERMANS IN CSSR. AFTER RECENT EFFORTS TO VERIFY THE FIGURES
(TAKING ACCOUNT LARGE NUMBER OF DEATHS OF THE ELDERLY),
FRG BELIEVES THERE ARE ONLY 10 TO 12,000. SINCE FRG-CSSR
BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE NORMALIZED AND QUESTIONAIRES SENT
AROUND TO GERMAN POPULATION, TOTAL OF 4,836 HAVE EXPRESSED
THE WISH TO LEAVE CSSR IMMEDIATELY. ANOTHER 1,200 HAVE STATED
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AN INTEREST IN LEAVING BUT SAY NOT NOW. AND THE REST HAVE NOT YET

REPLIED. THUS ACCORDING TO PRESENT KNOWLEDGE, ABOUT HALF
WANT TO LEAVE AND HALF WANT TO STAY.

3. RITZEL SAID THAT THE PROBLEM OF WOULD-BE GERMAN EMIGRATION
WAS MUCH LESS SERIOUS HERE THAN IN POLAND OR THE USSR,BUT
THE FRG FELT THAT EVENTUALLY THE EMIGRATION WOULD HAVE TO BE
SPEEDED UP. RIGHT NOW IT WAS GOING AHEAD, BUT VERY SLOWLY,
AND IF THERE WAS NOT AN UPTURN AT SOME STAGE THEN IT WOULD PRESENT
A PROBLEM.

4. COMMENT. RITZEL WAS SPEAKING IN A ROOM PRESUMED TO BE
BUGGED, AND FOR POLITICAL REASONS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY
FRANK IN HIS DESCRIPTION; BUT HIS NUMBERS ARE PRESUMABLY THOSE
ACCEPTED BY FRG AT PRESENT.
PERRY

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